TANZANIA FOREST WORKING GROUP

STRATEGY

2021 - 2025

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FOREWORD



The idea of Tanzania Forest Working Group came way back in 2002 whereas organizations that were dealing with forestry thoughts there was a need of joining voices to advocate for good governance of forestry resources in Tanzania. This was practically supported and formed this group.

In 2013 the TFWG was blessed with a five years forest governance campaign, the Mama Misitu Campaign which was supported by Finish and Norwegian embassies. Through the implementation of the campaign the group learnt that they cannot encourage good governance of forestry products whilst living aside private sector and individual personnel who

have passion and vast experience in forest.

It is for that reason the TFWG included private sector and individual personnel in the group. These multidisciplinary representatives brought a good catalyst to the group....

- Private sector representatives loudly started talking of how they have been harassed especially transporters of timber
- Timber traders addressed hustles they face in the whole timber trade chain
- Communities spoke on illegality along the timber trade chain
- District councils appreciated the importance of joining efforts in fighting illegal timber trade appreciate
- Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism appreciated the importance of the Mama Misitu campaign in fighting illegal timber trade and increasing income to the government

Foreseeing all that success and dialogue, the TFWG still has a long way to go to advocate equitable benefit sharing from forestry and the value of this important sector so that its contributions can transparently be recognized locally, nationally and internationally. It is for that reason TFWG members shall fundraise **TZS 2,067,000,000** required to facilitate implementation of this strategy that aims to advocate sustainable forest management in Tanzania so that men, women and youth can benefit and improve their livelihoods.

We are a TEAM

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Cassian Sianga – TFWG Coordinator

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBFM Community-Based Forest Management

CBNRM Community-Based Natural Resource Management

CSO Civil Society Organisation

JFM Joint Forest Management

JMA Joint Management Agreement

LGA Local Government Authority

MNRT Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

PFM Participatory Forest Management

TFCG Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

TNRF Tanzania Natural Resource Forum

VLFR Village Land Forest Reserve

VNRC Village Natural Resource Committee

WCST Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania

WWF World Wide Fund for Nature

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy provides the basic road map that Tanzania Forest Working Group (TFWG) intends to follow in order to achieve its philosophy as endowed in its Vision, Mission and constitution, from 2021 to 2025. The process of formulating this plan involved a review of literature, evaluating and learning from progress against the objectives of the 2013-2017 TFWG strategic plan, and consultations with TFWG members and partners.

The TFWG was formed to address advocacy and awareness-raising on critical issues in the forestry sector. The overall goal of the group is to encourage the development of a vibrant and effective coalition of non-state organizations and individuals working to improve forest governance and management in Tanzania.

The TFWG initially identified forest governance issues, particularly promoting participatory forest management and tackling illegal forest logging, as key issues within the forestry sector that most urgently needed cohesive civil society attention in terms of advocacy and awareness-raising.

To address these challenges, TFWG members combined their efforts in order to implement the five years "Mama Misitu Campaign (MMC)" that was focused on advancing forest governance. Through the MMC and individual member activities TFWG managed to;

- Introduce digital technologies in monitoring/controlling the licensing and transportation of forest products as a way of improving the tracking, and thereby increasing the efficiency and transparency, of the trade in forest produce.
- Improve coordination and sharing of evidence-based information, which was a key to enhancing learning and collective action (Advocacy).
- Facilitate spaces for multiple stakeholder's communication and dialogue whereby understanding the perspectives, experiences and opinions of the forest stakeholders was increased and the sharing and discussion of forest governance issues was enabled to a national level audience for inspiring informed policy change.
- Revisit recommendations contained in the TRAFFIC Report of 2007 as a means to publicly engage with stakeholders, including the minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, in order to improve forest governance in Tanzania.

However, despite all of these efforts, the forest sector still faces challenges including unclear information regarding the status of forestry in the country, inequitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, insufficient budget allocations for sustainable forest management and persistent knowledge gaps that lead to the improper management and governance of forest resources in Tanzania.

Therefore, this strategy aims to focus on advocating in order to address these continuing challenges through strategic engagement among TFWG members, communities, government officials, law enforcement agencies, mass media, the general public and development partners.

1.0. INTRODUCTION

About Tanzania Forest Working Group

The Tanzania Forest Working Group (TFWG) began in 2002 and formed formally in August 2005 with ten (10) members and eventually increasing to nineteen (19) members in 2021.

The TFWG advocates for sustainable initiatives towards addressing, and raising awareness on, critical issues regarding forest governance in Tanzania.

The TFWG has hosted and facilitated the <u>Tanzania Natural Resource Forum</u> since its establishment. Members of the group are all involved in forestry issues, either as organizations or as individuals, interested in advancing sustainable forest management in Tanzania.

About Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) - TFWG host organization

The Tanzania Natural Resource Forum seeks to improve governance and accountability in Tanzania's natural resource sector to achieve more sustainable rural livelihoods and better conservation outcomes. As a member-driven NGO, TNRF works to improve policy and practice for the better, by helping to bridge the gap between:

People's local natural resource management needs and practices; and

National natural resource management priorities, policies, laws and programs

TNRF supports its members by improving communication, sharing information, promoting collaboration and strengthening collective action. TNRF has a growing membership of more than 3,800 people and organizations, supporting professional staff, and a steering committee drawn from the membership.

2.0. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNT

For the past sixteen years, TFWG has brought a huge contribution to the forestry sector and to natural resources management in general.

Information gaps: The <u>Mama Misitu Campaign (MMC)</u> was a five years communication and advocacy campaign that aimed to improve the governance of Tanzania's forestry resources and reduce illegal forest harvesting, so that the people of Tanzania could increasingly benefit from sustainably managed forests.

In addressing challenges related to the information gap on forest products legality, a checklist for legal forest products trade from community-managed forests was developed by TFWG member – TRAFFIC using the MMC resources. The checklists were part of awareness creation to all stakeholders so as to increase understanding of the necessary procedures for legally harvesting and transporting timber resources from community-managed forests. The initiative has ultimately increased compliance to the procedures for legal forest product trade and provided necessary information for monitoring that compliance to forest laws during log/timber inspections at checkpoints.

Additionally, through the campaign in collaboration with Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) successfully produced, printed and installed 50 billboards to communicate the items of the checklist for legal forest products trade from Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR) at major checkpoints on the highway from Masasi to Dar es Salaam.

Multi-stakeholder platforms: The East African Timber Trade Stakeholders' forum brought together multi-agency stakeholders from several countries in East and Southern Africa to discuss the topic of timber trade. Through the forum several research findings were validated, resulting in the development and sharing of tools such as the updated Eastern and Southern African Timber Species Identification Guide, CITES non-detriment findings for timber, and the summary of Main Export and Import Procedures for East Africa's Timber Trade.

Community Based Forest Management (CBFM): Tanzania mainland comprises 21.9 million hectares of forests on village land, which is greater than 45% of the total forest area in mainland Tanzania. A total 1,233 villages, practising CBFM, manage a forest area of more than 2.4 million

hectares, which is 4.9% of the country's total forest area¹. This means that the scale of formal CBFM continues to be limited to just 10.46% of the total forest area on village land. Therefore, the mechanism for scaling up the CBFM model to protect the remaining 17.6 million ha (89.5%) of forests on village land that are not under any management regime (open-access forest area) remains ineffective and unclear.

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 $^{^{1}}$ MJUMITA report (2020). Proceedings of the Tanzania Forestry Working Group meeting held on $7^{th} - 8^{th}$ September 2020, at Dodoma hotel

3.0 STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

The strategic analysis in this section has been informed by TFWG member progress reports together with a broader review of literature regarding the forest situation in Tanzania. This section presents a summary of key priority issues that the strategy will advocate for, and raise awareness on, so as to ensure sustainable forest management in Tanzania. The section also presents a summary of an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and strategic implications for the Tanzania Forest Working Group itself.

3.1. Key priority issues

Illegal forest product trade is still a challenge: The country is still losing resources through illegal harvesting and trade. TRAFFIC was financially supported by the Embassy of Finnish, through TNRF, to build on initial trials investigating the use of technology in improving timber trade controls and monitoring, which had originally been supported by WWF Forestry Programme. The use of digital monitoring of forest produce that had been piloted at selected locations had shown positive results by increasing efficiency, transparency and reducing illegal harvesting and transportation of forest products along the supply chain.

Also, the concept and practice of Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) were introduced during the implementation of the 2012-2016 TFWG strategy. SAM had contributed significantly to ensuring good governance of forest resources. Therefore, under this strategy, a stocktaking on all these initiatives will be conducted in order to assess the level of achievement and to map the way forward.

Knowledge gap: Information on forestry is either inaccessible, unavailable, unreliable or all of the above. In those cases where forestry information is available, the information is not clear and is not always well understood to stakeholders from local, district to national level, a challenge that includes the most appropriate use of language. TFWG members, through MMC, had done exemplary work on this issue by translating and simplifying key guideline documents on Joint Forest Management (JFM) and bridging the information gap between the government and communities. However, reporting mechanisms are still not clear at various stages and levels along

the timber trade value chain. Accurate data/information regarding how the harvesting permits that are issued relate to the realities of the forest situation in the country continues to be a challenge.

Also, there are inadequate **skills on how to convey key messages:** Information can be provided but it often does not advocate on improving the forestry sector. Therefore, this strategy will look at effective ways and tactics on how best to bridge the information gap.

Budget allocations: Although the forestry sector contributes 4% to the GDP of Tanzania, whilst charcoal alone may contribute 45% of the value of forest products in the country, however, relatively little is being reinvested back to the sector². Experience from charcoal production areas shows that even though 10% of revenue accrued from charcoal production should return to the local government to support development of forest management models, none actually goes back to forest conservation activities. As a result of poor reinvestment in forest management, difficulties arise for forest personnel to monitor forest resources.

This strategy will continue to advocate for an increased budget allocation to the forestry sector. Also, TFWG members will be capacitated with basic skills and knowledge to better understand budget processes and conduct budget tracking.

Equitable benefit sharing arrangements are still a challenge: There are no clear statistics on how much is being used and generated from forestry. Similarly, although CBFM has been in Tanzania since 1995, there are no clear arrangements on how benefit-sharing will meet communities' needs and aspirations.

Financial sustainability to support the work of TFWG is essential to ensure the smooth implementation of their activities. Therefore, this strategy will develop a resource mobilization plan to guide members' fundraising efforts.

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 $^{^2\} https://eiti.org/files/documents/tanzania-eiti-final_report_eiti-forestry_scoping_study_16-december_2014.pdf$

3.2. SWOT Analysis

This section presents summary of strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities and threats [SWOT] analysis of TFWG members themselves.

Strength	Strategic implication
 Knowledge and skills on benefit-sharing mechanisms Capacity building on business and marketing development Communication and advocacy experience on good governance from village, national and international levels Pool of experts from reputable NGOs/ INGOs and individuals Trusted collaborations with the government Income generation activities High-level engagement with political leaders Skills on social accountability monitoring and budget tracking 	 Improved benefits from forest resources Reduced pressure on forest resources Improved social services for villagers Less dependence on district funding by village governance institutions Forest resources better protected by both TFS and villagers To source funds Sharing of knowledge and experiences that can enrich the platform Benefit from individual partners' relationship and networking with government and development partners Meet the goal of sustainable forest management by reducing pressure on forest resources by communities
Weakness	Strategic implication
 There is no focal person to run day to day TFWG activities and administrative tasks Limited funds and high donor dependence Limited expertise on the forest value chain and budget tracking Limited interactions between member organizations Uncoordinated efforts from partners/actors 	 Develop resource mobilization plan Recruit full-time employee whose responsibilities [among others] are to fundraise and share member lessons on a quarterly basis
Opportunities	Strategic implication
 Synergy of activities among members Internal fundraising Communication and advocacy experience on good governance from village, national and international levels Avenues for capacity building within TFWG are available on business and market development Membership fees for operational cost Donor contributions Community's willingness to participate in the generation of alternative income for livelihood improvement 	 To raise funds for common goals To have annual subscription fees for member commitment and placement of full-time employee The education that targets to community (rights-based approach) and develop critical perspective at community level Scale-out Community forest-based enterprise for livelihood improvement
Threats	Strategic implication
 Uncertain long-term financial support The conflict of interest between members and the Government Changes in government regulations/ guidelines i.e. GN417 	Develop a resource mobilization plan

4.0 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

4.1. TFWG Vision

Improved governance of the forest sector leading to equitable and sustainable forest management in Tanzania.

4.2. Mission

To advocate for improved forestry governance through information sharing and knowledge about effective policies laws and programs in Tanzania

4.3. Strategic goal

The overall goal of TFWG is to encourage the development of a vibrant and effective coalition of non-state organisations and individuals working to improve forest governance and management in Tanzania. The group aims to hold government institutions accountable through awareness-raising and advocacy, and to help provide the appropriate support needed by the government to better manage the country's forest resources.

4.4. Strategic objectives [SO]

Strategic Objective 1: To improve the governance of Tanzania's forestry resources

The Tanzania forest sector is vested with the responsibility of managing the forest resources sustainably as stipulated in the National policy of 1998 and Forest Act of 2002. Therefore, SO1 aims to advocate good governance through capacity building and knowledge generation on key forest governance issues to communities, local government, and forest management authorities, members of the parliament, development partners, private sectors and media.

This will be realized through the following activities;

Activity 1.1. Facilitating policy dialogues through multi-stakeholders hearings and breakfast debates to review the impact of government policies and laws on forest

management. The main target group for this activity are policy makers and governing bodies.

Activity 1.2. Advocate on proper budget allocation and prioritization of the forest sector. The target group for this activity are the members of the parliament.

Activity 1.3. Establish a SAM team to all villages that MMC could not reach during its implementation. The target group for this activity are men, women and youth at the villages whereas TFWG members are based.

Activity 1.4. Capacitate all key stakeholders on forest data collection both digital and manual, processing, managing and dissemination across all levels. The key stakeholders include personnel at village level responsible with forest harvesting, transporters, checkpoints and forest officers.

Strategic Objective 2: Information sharing for improved forest governance

The SO 2 focused on scaling-up of information sharing procedures, and improved methods of communication to better inform the public on sustainable forest management.

Activity 2.1. Develop TFWG communication and advocacy strategy. This strategy will guide TFWG members and implementers to efficiently develop, collect and package forest related information for specific identified target audiences.

The document will clearly stipulate advocacy tactics that will enhance evidenced based advocacy to inform policy and strategically use media to inform public and other stakeholders interested on improved forest governance

Activity 2.2. Documenting best practices from TFWG members and promote citizen journalism by empowering community members, men, women and youth to collect and deliver forest-related information

Activity 2.3. Conduct stocktaking of all the initiatives of the MMC and its partners. This activity targets MMC jurisdictions and its partners i.e. community members (men, women

and youth), CBOs, NGOs, policy makers and government officials from district to national level.

Strategic Objective 3: Collaboration and fundraising for the implementation of TFWG priority issues

This objective aims at ensuring TFWG sustainably by employing fundraising efforts among members.

- **Activity 3.1.** Develop resource mobilization plan so as to bring together TFWG members to fundraise for priority activities identified in the strategy.
- **Activity 3.2.** Placement of one permanent staff for fundraising and follow-up on the progress of the implementation for this strategy. This personnel will play a core role of bridging information and practice among members.
- **Activity 3.3.** Strengthen collaboration with development partners including East African timber trade Forum, SADC, EAC, AU, COMESA

4.5. Action plan

Strategic Objective 1: To improve the governance of Tanzania's forestry resources

Activity		Timing				
		Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Budget Implication 2021 - 2024 [TZS]	Responsible
Policy dialogues through multi-stakeholders hearings and breakfast debates - Review the impact of government policies and laws on forest management - Value chain - Favourable bylaws					120,000,000	TNRF
Parliamentary engagement - Discuss budget allocations and prioritization					92,000,0000	TNRF
SAM - Establish SAM team at village level					180,000,000	Policy Forum, LEAT, MJUMITA, MCDI, TNRF
Capacity building - Forest data collection, management - Digital timber trade tracking - Information sharing across all levels of government (local and central)					160,000,000	TRAFFIC
Subtotal for SO 1				552,000,000		

Strategic Objective 2: Information sharing for improved forest governance

Activity		imi	ing			
		Y	Y 3	Y 4	Budget Implication 2021 - 2024 [TZS]	Responsible
Develop TFWG communication and advocacy strategy					25,000,000	TFWG Members
Capacity building - Investigative journalism on forest governance issues - Social Accountability Monitoring - Budget tracking and allocation					60,000,000	JET, TFCG&TNRF Policy Forum, LEAT, TNRF
Dissemination/information sharing					80,000,000 160,000,000 20,000,000	TNRF, JET, TFCG, MJUMITA
Best practices - Collect and package forest-related information [CBFM] to respond to the need of various audiences - Promote citizen journalism by empowering community members to collect and deliver forest-related information					120,000,000	WWF, TRAFFIC, MCDI, JET, TFWG Members
- Develop, print and distribute various communication and advocacy products as per the strategy i.e. policy briefs, calendars, posters - Coordinate response to the gaps in GN 417 by presenting unified evidence-based information to government forestry authorities					240,000,000	TNRF
Monitoring					30,000,000	TNRF

- Conduct stocktaking of all the initiatives of the MMC and its partners						
Subtotal for SO 2				735,000,000		

Strategic Objective 3: Collaboration and fundraising for the implementation of TFWG priority issues

	Timing		0			
Activity	Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Budget Implication 2021 - 2024 [TZS]	Responsible
Develop resource mobilization plan					20,000,000	
Initialize membership fees and donation for all TFWG members - Membership agreement as a commitment toward membership fees contributions 'Endorsement'					480,000,000 ³	
Placement of one permanent staff for fundraising (Coordinator) and follow-up on member activities					240,000,000	
Fundraising - Grant applications - Joint fundraising activities ⁴						TNRF with partner organisation
Strengthen collaboration - East African timber trade Forum, SADC, EAC, AU, COMESA					40,000,000	
Subtotal fo			}		780,000,000	

Summary

TZS

SO 1: Subtotal 552,000,000

SO 2: Subtotal 735,000,000

SO 3: Subtotal 780,000,000

Grand total 2,067,000,000

³ 500,000/Member*20TFWG Members*4years

⁴ EA Timber trade forum, Sports tournaments, Fundraising Kiosks, Online donations, Charity walks, Custom items (e.g. T-shirts)



5.0. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

5.1. Coordination of the Strategic Plan implementation

Tanzania Natural Resource Forum will continue to coordinate TFWG activities and convene group's meetings, events, collaborative activities and projects. The forum will also coordinate the implementation of this strategy by facilitating activities and communicating with responsible members.

TNRF will also

- Draft ToR of a full-time employee and share with TFWG members for inputs
- Facilitate the discussion of TFWG membership fees and modalities of managing TFWG funds

5.2. TFWG membership

Group membership is guided by strategic areas for engagement or emerging issues of relevance to the group. Membership of TFWG will **not** be obligatory or registered but will be driven by issues or matters that require attention from the members engaged.

The following areas for engagement draw members to TFWG:

- Core membership is made up of CSOs that subscribe to, and support the long-term objective of, the TFWG
- Relationship to projects and strategic areas for engagement as based on the specific areas
 of interest and competency of the members concerned (MMC, Reducing emissions from
 deforestation and forest degradation [REDD], CBNRM, Forest Governance Learning
 Group [FGLG])
- Membership to TFWG is also eligible for government officials, private sector, development partners and others who agree with the mission of TFWG

TFWG members are expected to share and practice the following core values:

- Equity and gender awareness
- Responsiveness to members, partners and emerging issues
- Accountability (downward, up-ward and lateral) and integrity
- Participation of stakeholders in decision-making

5.3. Source of funding

The TFWG will develop a resource mobilization plan facilitated by the TNRF. This should be done by August 2021.

TFWG members must pull their weight in the fund-raising effort to ensure the group gets funds for the implementation of this strategy.

5.4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The strategy will be reviewed after every two years during the implementation period to maintain the nature, scope, effectiveness and direction of the strategies and approaches that TFWG undertakes.

TNRF will complement the review process by using the Outcome Monitoring approach to ensure that best practices and lessons learnt are extracted and properly documented and are used in the learning process for TFWG. The lessons and best practices will be shared with the TFWG regularly for feedback and improving TFWG strategies.

5.5. TFWG Members

Institution member	E1	
Name of the institution	Focal person	contacts
AFRI CARE		
Care Tanzania		
Enviro-care	Amani Njabiu	envirocare_2002@yahoo.com
FARM AFRICA	Beatrice Muliahela	bmuliahela@gmail.com
International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN	Eva A. Msella	eva.msella@iucn.org
Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania - JET	John Stan Chikomo	jstanchiko@gmail.com
Lawyers' Environmental Action Team - LEAT	Augustino Munuma	amunuma@leat.or.tz
Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania - MJUMITA	Rahima Njaidi	rnjaidi@gmail.com
Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative (MDCI)	Jasper Makala	jasper.makala@mpingoconservation.org
Policy Forum	Semkae Kilonzo	
Tanzanian Traditional Energy Development Organisation - TaTEDO	Mary Swai	mary.swai@tatedo.or.tz
Tanzania Forest Conservation Group [TFCG]	Charles Meshack	cmulimila@gmail.com/cmeshack@tfcg.or.tz
Tanzania Natural Resource Forum - TNRF	Zakaria Faustin	z.faustin@tnrf.org
Tanzania Specialist Organization on Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation - TASONABI		
TRAFFIC	Allen Chad Mgaza	allen.mgaza@traffic.org
Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS		
Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania - WCST		
World Vision		
WWF	Laurance Mbwambo	lmbwambo@wwftz.org
Individual members		
Independent Consultant: Forester	Kahana Lukumbuzya	kahana.lukumbuzya@gmail.com

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